

# The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

**January 2015**



## **At the Helm**

**Bob Nicholson, Commodore**

[email: Commodore@TexasMariners.com](mailto:Commodore@TexasMariners.com)

ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT

Where did 2014 go to - a lot of cruises, parties and more parties – a very successful Spring Fling and did I mention, more parties. What a fabulous Commodore's Ball – A big thanks to Bron Lee and her volunteers for all of their hard work – A great time was had by all, and all of the special awards were well deserved.

It was my honor to take the "Helm" from Commodore Martin Clark. With the help of the past Commodores and our new Board, I am looking forward to a fun 2015.

I have finalized my selections for 2015 Trustees -- Serving will be Doug Chappell, Gloria Rooney, Marion Herndon and Steve Lee – a lot of experience behind me!

January, like in past years, will be very busy for TMCA and will be the stepping stone for our entire year – make sure you make the Planning Meeting and Member Orientation to see what's in store.

My primary goal for 2015 will be to continue to implement technologies to streamline TMCA operations – we made a good start in 2014 with the redesign of our Web Page and the start of online registrations and purchases of merchandise.

In our boating world, our goal to move aboard "Docketari" by the end of the year has come to reality. We will get use to the "down-size" and prepare all systems to leave the first of 2016 on our much anticipated adventure – The Great Loop. In between, we are planning more fun TMCA cruises. Safety Moment – Since we are now living on our boat, we have become more aware to the day to day "sounds" of our boat. Continued maintenance is most important – on a routine start-up of the engines, I noticed a hesitation in my Port engine and my gauges going crazy – my diesel mechanic suspected a bad crank battery – after he checked it out – what a surprise, the battery was cracked and was actually burning thru the wood platform they were sitting on – a major situation ready to happen – bottom line, routine inspections on all system can prevent a disaster.

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

***Bob Nicholson,  
Commodore***



## **The Corner of Vice**

**Charles Parette, Vice Commodore**

Email: [ViceCommodore@TexasMariners](mailto:ViceCommodore@TexasMariners)

I'm honored to be elected to the Board, and looking forward a great year of educational opportunities in 2015

The first monthly meeting will be Friday, January 16 at the Elks Lodge, 623 Hanson Road in Kemah. The program this month will feature the Sea Scout Base Galveston Foundation. Many of us have looked across Offats Bayou and viewed their building to the east of Pelican Rest. Is it a hotel? Office building? We'll learn about what's in their new building, what they do, youth sailing, adaptive sailing, education, scouting, rescue, and much more. Come early for dinner and drinks, program starts at 7:30. Be sure to wear your name badge.

An important event takes place on Saturday, January 25 from 9:00 – 11:00 also at the Elks Lodge. If you've just joined TMCA, or have been a member for a while but want to learn more about how to get the most out of your membership, *this* is the meeting to attend! You'll meet the new officers, get an overview of the web site and the awesome new smart phone app developed by Christopher Bown, learn about the upcoming cruises and parties, and how to sign up for them. We'll highlight some of the signature events that are on the must do list. You'll also get a quick overview of some of our cruising destinations. Mark your calendar for Saturday morning, 9:00 – 11:00. Come a little early for coffee and donuts. [This is your first step to get your return on your membership investment.](#)

***Charles Parette,  
Vice Commodore***

---



## **The Social Scuttlebutt**

**Charlene Lim, Rear Commodore**

**email: [RearCommodore@TexasMariners.com](mailto:RearCommodore@TexasMariners.com)**

Give a Sailor a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a sailor to fish and he will sit on a boat all day drinking beer. As they say in N'Orleans "Laissez les bons temps rouler", let's make merry! Let the good times roll!!! Thanks for the giving me the opportunity to show you a good time in 2015. Big hugs and kisses to all the past rear commodores. They have done a superlative job and make for big shoes to fill. And many thanks to my supporters.

For those who missed "The Commodore's Ball" it was spectacular, beautiful decorations, fantastic gifts, wonderful entertainment, kudos to Bron and her marvelous backstage supporters.

Come on down to the "Official Planning Meeting" (The famous "Elks Lodge" 9am, Jan 10<sup>th</sup>) and sign up to host an event or lead a cruise (or volunteer for backstage support). I'll need your help to make this an outstanding year. Remember, only 52 weeks in a year and the things that come to those who wait will be the things left by those who got there first. "Hosting an Event" is synonym for fun easy camaraderie. Don't worry, you can't do it wrong, just provide a trendy scene, tables for food, Ice, picnic ware, a hot steamy pit and anything else you do is lagniappe. See how simple that is. Old and new members, come on down and seize the opportunity to host a Dock Party, Cruises, Dinner gathering, tour somewhere, etc.. I promise there will be warm Kolaches with big fat juicy weenies, round donuts with loads of sugar and "wicked" coffee.

Feeling a touch of TMCA disorientation? Don't worry we have an Orientation Meeting to cure you on Jan 24<sup>th</sup> at 9am at the famous "Elks Lodge". There will be segments on cruising destinations, upcoming, festivities, Q&A sessions and you get to meet me (along with those other officers, the commodore and all). And lip-smacking big fat Kolache w/weenies, donuts with and without holes and best of all "wicked" coffee.

Jan 24<sup>th</sup> isn't over yet; back by popular demand "The Bunko Party". A phenomenal occasion to meet, make and rekindle friendships. The Elks Lodge will be transformed from a meeting place to a Dice throwing, socializing, whimsical, competitive fun house. The rules are so easy a drunken sailor could do it, but in case you're still feeling a little disorientated from the Orientation meeting it will start off with a training session. The rules will be taped to the tables just in case you forget "stuff" as easily as I do. Bring your favorite soup, chili, gumbo dish to share. I'll spare you of the wicked coffee and spoil you with "wicked" tea instead. Picnic ware and ice will be available for all to share. The Elks local bar is always open for adult refreshments to purchase as always. The festivities begin at 6pm. Oops, forgot to mention cool prizes!!

We are in need of card tables, extension cords and helper bees for the Bunko party. Anyone interested in getting a head start on hosting a party or cruise in January give Jerry or myself a call.

***Charlene Lim***  
***Rear Commodore***  
***TMCA Knows Fun!!***



## **The Cruise Corner**

**Jerry Simoneaux, Cruise Captain**

**email: [Captain@TexasMariners.com](mailto:Captain@TexasMariners.com)**

I want to start off by recognizing the wonderful job Jim Lee, our 2014 Cruise Director, did during the past year. Thank you for an outstanding job, Jim! I am honored to follow you in the role of Cruise Captain for 2015.

I start off each new year with the intention to try something I've never tried before, go somewhere I've never been, and meet someone new I never thought I'd meet. Over the past few years, TMCA alone has provided me ample opportunities to fulfill each goal. For example, in 2014 Christopher and I sailed Tradewind to Port Arthur (twice). In planning the trips, we met Jim Hayes at Laguna Harbor who extended an open invitation to overnight anytime at his beautiful marina just east

of Bolivar Roads in the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. In Port Arthur, we received a warm welcome from the very friendly folks at the Port Arthur Yacht Club, who know how to put on an incredible pot luck dinner and spin the funniest and most fascinating yarns. We motored east in the GIWW to Port Arthur and sailed offshore back home. We likely would have done none of this if we weren't members of TMCA.

I invite you to participate in suggesting and planning TMCA cruises in 2015 by joining me and other TMCA members at our Planning Meeting on January 10 at 9:00 am at the Elks Lodge, 623 Hanson, Kemah, Texas. We need your ideas, suggestions, and hands raised to lead or assist in a cruise. Look forward to seeing you there!

To see full cruise details and sign up go to <http://TexasMariners.com>.

***Jerry Simoneaux***  
***Cruise Captain***

---



## **Secretary's Report**

**Kathy Houser, Secretary**

email: [Secretary@TexasMariners.com](mailto:Secretary@TexasMariners.com)

Happy 2015 to you all!

A year of ending and beginning and New Year's Eve has always been a time for looking back to the past, and more importantly, forward to the coming year. It's a time to reflect on the changes we want to make and resolve to follow through on those changes. With the turn of a new year, most of us want to set and meet empowering goals. We pause to correct negative thinking and make a commitment to process life differently. We take a self-inventory and then make New Year's resolutions.

One of the most important resolutions you can make is to renew your membership for another great year of cruises and parties. If you have not already done so, please do it now. Just go to the web site, log in, and click Membership → My Account. Or click this link and get started, [membership renewal form](#).

Please help me in welcoming new members:

Benjamin and Emily Stanton

John Sneider & Dorothy Ballentine

Jeff and Katherine Knight

My wish for you is: I want all of you to feel the hope, love and passion I feel for the upcoming year and the rest of my life. I want ALL of you to not only go for your dreams, but have a darn good time doing it! I drink to your health, your wealth, your fortune for long years to come, and I hope for many more days in which we can gather like we have in 2014!

I look forward to being your 2015 Secretary and seeing you all at our fun-filled TMCA functions.

I believe in pink. I believe that laughing is the best calorie burner. I believe in kissing, kissing a lot. I believe in being strong when everything seems to be going wrong. I believe that happy girls are the prettiest girls. I believe that tomorrow is another day and I believe in miracles.

[Audrey Hepburn](#)

***Kathy Houser***  
***Secretary***

---

## [Dollars And "Sense" from the Treasurer](#)

**Debbie Sturegon, Treasurer**

[Email: Treasurer@TexasMariners.com](mailto:Treasurer@TexasMariners.com)

I'm looking forward to my year as Treasurer of TMCA, and I'd like to thank Bob Nickelson for all the help with the transition.

2014 was a fun sailing year of firsts for Moray and I. We were Cruise Captains for the first time over Memorial weekend; we took part in the first Spring Fling race and I participated in my first cozy Christmas sock contest! We are looking forward to more sailing firsts this year - maybe a trip to Pensacola or perhaps, the Harvest Moon Regatta...

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year!

*Debbie Sturgeon,  
Treasurer*

---

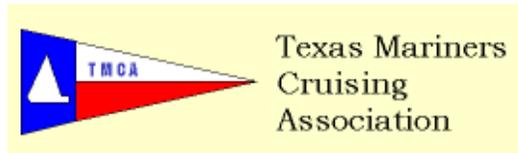
[Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)

### **2015 TMCA Officers**

<b>Commodore:</b>	<b>Bob Nickelson, m/v Docketari</b>	<b>713-826-7551</b>
<b>Past Commodore:</b>	<b>Martin Clark, m/v Impulsive</b>	<b>281-435-1253</b>
<b>Vice Commodore:</b>	<b>Charles Parette, m/v Andiamo</b>	<b>713-817-8263</b>
<b>Rear Commodore:</b>	<b>Charlene Lim, s/v Sea Illusion</b>	<b>281-333-6621</b>
<b>Cruise Captain:</b>	<b>Jerry Simoneaux, s/v Tradewind</b>	<b>713-577-9587</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Kathy Houser, m/v Attitude Adjustment</b>	<b>281-804-4122</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Debbie Sturgeon, s/v Sol Purpose</b>	<b>832-474-5627</b>

## 2015 TMCA Trustees

Trustee 2011	Commodore	Doug Chappell	Dock Trauma	281-330-1163
Trustee 2008	Commodore	Marion Herndon		281-703-9322
Trustee 2012-13	Commodore	Steve Lee	s/v Waltzing Matilda	281-802-9838
Trustee 2002	Commodore	Gloria Rooney	s/v St. Somewhere	281-499-4413



***Please send any articles you would like included in the TMCA Mariner to TMCA Mariner Editor at [Newsletter@TexasMariners.com](mailto:Newsletter@TexasMariners.com)***

Texas Mariners Cruising Association, PO Box 946, Kemah, TX 77565-0946  
<http://www.TexasMariners.com> | [Anti-spam policy](#) | [Privacy policy](#)